LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House

4605 N. Hermitage Ave.

Preliminary Landmark receommendation approved by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, November 3, 2005

CITY OF CHICAGO
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
Lori T. Healey, Commissioner

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City Council which individual buildings, sites, objects, or districts should be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law.

The landmark designation process begins with a staff study and a preliminary summary of information related to the potential designation criteria. The next step is a preliminary vote by the landmarks commission as to whether the proposed landmark is worthy of consideration. This vote not only initiates the formal designation process, but it places the review of city permits for the property under the jurisdiction of the Commission until a final landmark recommendation is acted on by the City Council.

This Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within the designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.

Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House

4605 North Hermitage Avenue

Built: **1891, 1906 (rear addition)**
Architects: **Dahlgren and Lievendahl (1891)**

The professionalization of pharmaceutical manufacturing is one of the important stories of science and economics in the late 19th and 20th centuries in the United States. One of the significant companies in that history, Abbott Laboratories, was founded in Chicago in the North-Side Ravenswood neighborhood by the company's founder, Dr. Wallace Calvin Abbott. Dr. Abbott was a pioneering Chicago physician, pharmacist, publisher and entrepreneur, launching a business that would eventually become a world-wide health care company. Dr. Abbott's house at 4605 N. Hermitage Ave., the best surviving building in Chicago associated with his life and career, was his home from its construction in 1891 until his death in 1921.

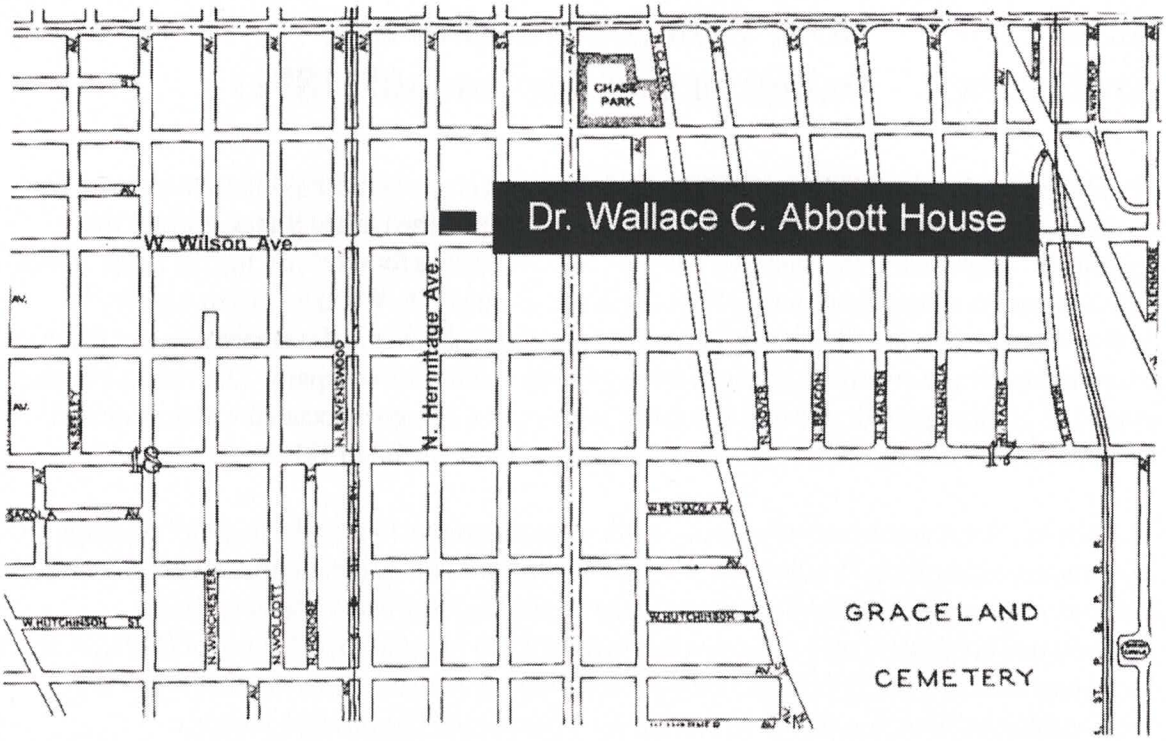
The Abbott House and its accompanying stable/coachhouse are Queen Anne-style buildings on a prominent corner lot at Hermitage and Wilson Avenues. With its corner tower with bell-cast roof and wrap-around porch, the Abbott House exemplifies the visual character of the Ravenswood neighborhood's early development as first a railroad suburb north of Chicago, and later a handsome city neighborhood of large single-family houses. Its accompanying wood-frame stable/coachhouse is unusual in its quality of design and fine physical integrity.

Dr. Wallace Calvin Abbott And the Beginnings of Abbott Laboratories

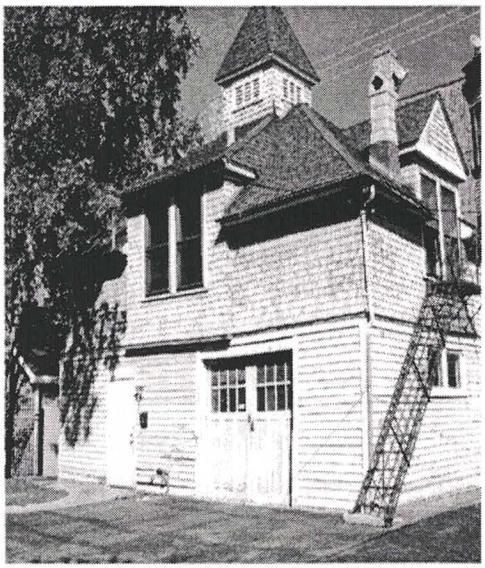
Dr. Wallace Calvin Abbott (October 12, 1857- July 4, 1921) and his wife Clara Ingraham Abbott arrived in Chicago in 1886 after Abbott purchased the medical practice and drug store of Dr. William C. Dodge, a prominent physician in the Ravenswood community in what was then the Township of Lake View north of Chicago. Born on a farm near Bridgewater, Vermont, Abbott took pre-medical classes at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire before attending the University of Michigan, from which he graduated with a medical degree in 1885.

Within months after arriving in Ravenswood, Dr. Abbott established his own pharmacy, the People's Drug Store on E. Ravenswood Ave. (on the east side of the Chicago & Norh Western Railway tracks). Once established, he brought his parents and sister Lucy to Ravenswood, settling them in a frame dwelling at 1416 East Ravenswood Avenue (now 4747 N. Ravenswood Ave.), on the east side of the Chicago & North Western Railway tracks connecting Ravenswood with Chicago. This dwelling was a few doors north of the People's Drug Store, which also contained his apartment.

Along with his medical practice and pharmacy, Dr. Abbott began experiments in 1888 in the manufacture of "dosimetric granules"—precisely controlled portions of drugs (a "dose") in sugarcoated pill form. Dr. Abbott's interest in accurate dosages of "alkaloids"—active ingredients of plants, herbs, roots, flowers and animals used for medicinal use—came from



The Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House is located on the northeast corner of N. Hermitage Ave. and W. Wilson Ave. in the Ravenswood neighborhood on Chicago's North Side.



Top: The Abbott House, built in 1891, is an expansive wood-frame building built in the Queen Anne architectural style. Above: The House's wood-frame stable. Left: Dr. Wallace Calvin Abbott, circa 1890.

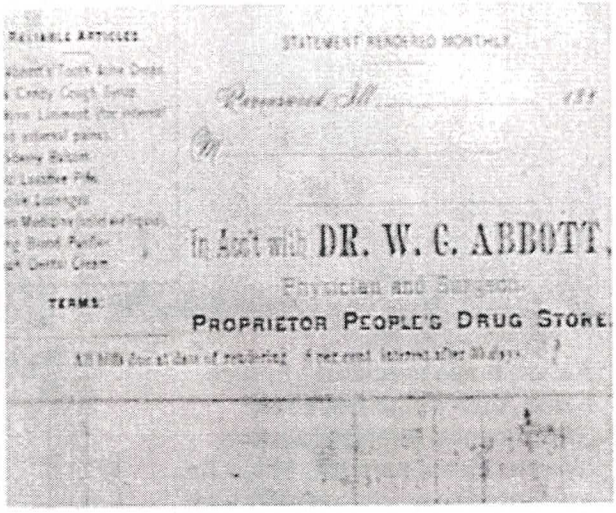
medical school lectures and his readings about Dr. Adolphe Burggraeve, a Belgian surgeon who had pioneered "alkaloidal" therapies in tablet form. Initially buying "granules" from an American manufacturer for his patients, but being dissatisfied with their quality, Dr. Abbott began to create his own dosimetric granules in his apartment at his drug store.

Abbott's investigations into drug making were part of an important trend in medicine during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. For physicians earlier in the century, patient care had consisted mainly of primitive procedures and crude medications. Doctors before 1850 commonly employed bleeding, vomiting and purging at the bedside. In fact, a medical degree was not always necessary to practice medicine. Patient distaste for bleeding and vile medications made alternative medical practices and patent medicines commonplace. Until Rush Medical College was founded in Chicago in 1843, most of the city's physicians were trained in the East or practiced alternative medicine, including homeopathy. Doctors who employed "eclectic medicine"—which avoided bleeding and purging—existed alongside "regular" medical school-trained physicians.

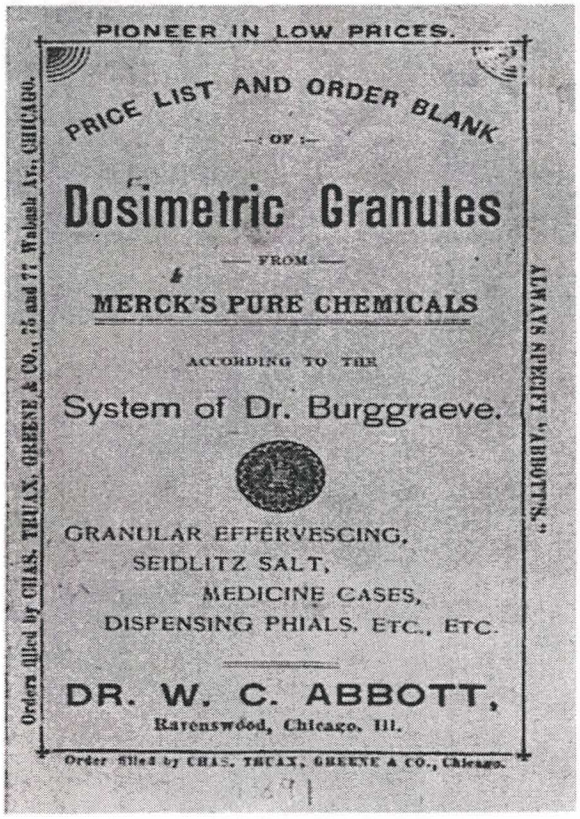
In 1878, state legislation was passed that required medical doctors to possess medical degrees from approved medical schools with established standards. In these years, established physicians gave short shrift to medical theories and medical laboratory research then being undertaken in France and Germany, and relied on known treatments and plant-based medicines such as quinine and opium to cure patients. It was in the 1890s, when medical school curriculums introduced the germ theory of disease in laboratory-based training, that the era of modern medicine was born, including an interest in science-based pharmaceuticals.

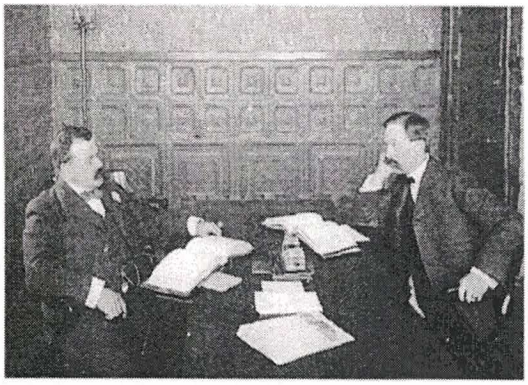
Dr. Abbott's experiments in scientific drug manufacture continued from 1888 until 1891 when he was confident enough about his tablets to begin advertising his water-soluble "granules" in a 14-page catalogue containing 150 products. Drug sales during the first year (1888) were $2000 and quickly grew to $10,000 by 1891. That same year, Dr. Abbott built the large wood-frame house at 4605 N. Hermitage Ave. that would be his home for the rest of his life. He had bought the building lot in 1888, but had been living in an apartment in the building housing his drug store. He was now financially comfortable enough to build this two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne-style house.

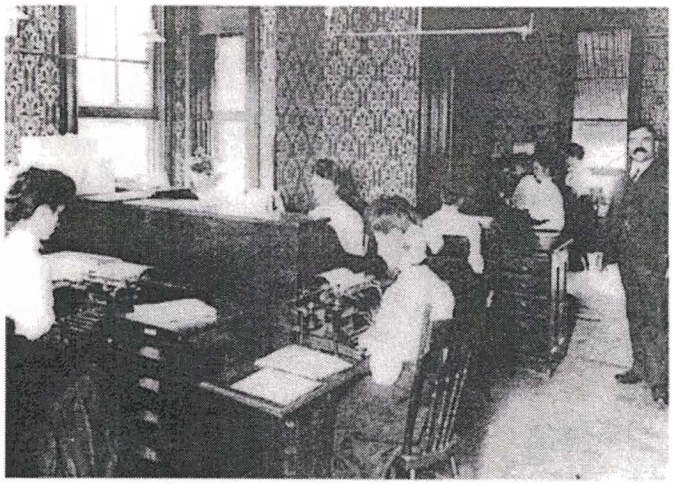
Abbott began to sell his pills to doctors across the country through a variety of advertising materials. He began with a twenty-five cent advertisement in *The Medical World,* a medical journal. Soon however, Dr. Abbott branched out with a magazine of his own to help support and market his drug venture. *The Alkaloidal Clinic*, a medical journal originally started by Dr. William T. Thackeray, had ceased publication due to a national financial panic in 1893. Dr. Thackeray gave the journal title to Dr. Abbott ,who restarted the publication and nurtured its growth from 12-page to 36-page issues filled with articles, letters, notes and advertisements for various medical instruments and drugs, including those produced by Dr. Abbott's firm. This journal was renamed *The American Journal of Clinical Medicine* in 1906 and expanded its focus beyond aklaliodal therapy to a broad range of medical topics. (This journal is no longer published.)



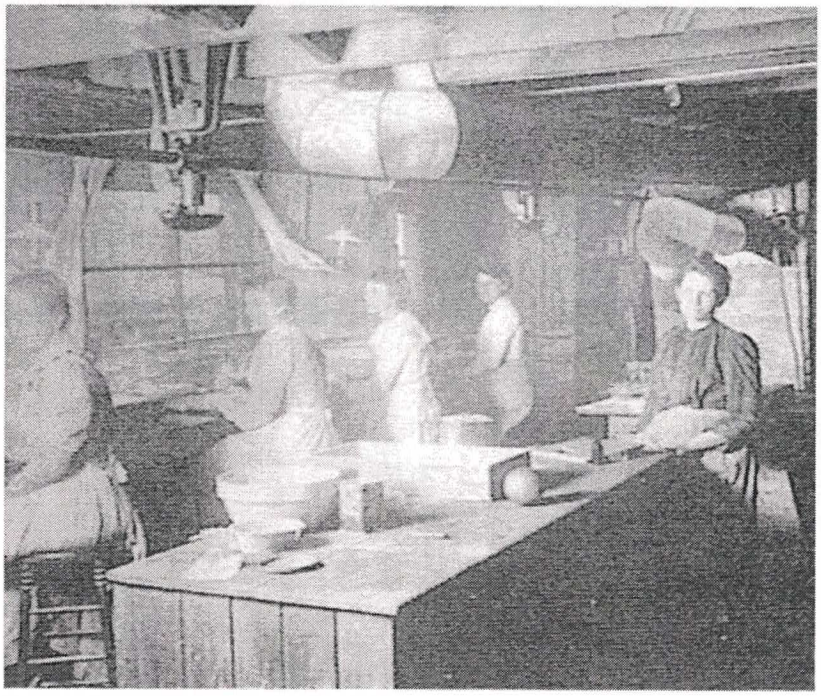
Above left: Dr. Wallace C. Abbott, his wife Clara and daughter Eleanor. Above right: An order blank from the People's Drug Store, owned by Dr. Abbott. Bottom left: Dr. Abbott's first 14-page catalogue listing more than 150 products. Bottom right: An 1896 cover for *The Alkaloidal Clinic*, a medical journal published by Dr. Abbott.


PIONEER IN LOW PRICES.
PRICE LIST AND ORDER BLANK
— OF —
Dosimetric Granules
— FROM —
MERCK'S PURE CHEMICALS
ACCORDING TO THE
System of Dr. Burggraeve.
GRANULAR EFFERVESCING,
SEIDLITZ SALT,
MEDICINE CASES,
DISPENSING PHIALS, ETC., ETC.
DR. W. C. ABBOTT,
Ravenswood, Chicago, Ill.
Orders filled by CHAS. THUAX, GREENE & CO., 75 and 77 Wabash Av., CHICAGO.
ALWAYS ASKFOR "ABBOTT'S."
Order filled by CHAS. THUAX, GREENE & CO., Chicago.





Abbott made medicines first at home, then in the house on Ravenswood Avenue formerly lived in by his parents, which he converted to manufacturing use. Acquiring land on either side of the house, Abbott by 1909 had constructed a small manufacturing complex for his growing company. Above left: Dr. Abbott and James Ranson, secretary-treasurer of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company (the original name for Abbott Laboratories). Above right: Dr. Abbott with office staff. Right: An early bottling and storage area for the company. Bottom: The tablet-making room.



Pharmaceutical manufacturing became an important part of Chicago's economy by the end of the 19th century. Chicago drug stores, like others around the country, sold patent medicines as well as doctor-prepared drugs and therapies in the form of fluid extracts and tinctures. In these years, there was little quality control or minimal experimentation to assure that the drug would indeed produce the desired effect on patients. Even ethical drugs (sold to doctors and pharmacists only) were unstandardized, inconsistent as to their quality and were frequently vile smelling and tasting. Patent medicines on the other hand, were advertised to consumers in newspapers and magazines to treat a specific or a combination of ailments, and were often no more than alcohol-laced concoctions. In Chicago alone in 1889, there were over a thousand druggists eager to supply patients with medicines on the advice of their physician (or not). Abbott's precise dosages and emphasis on quality control were innovative for the times.

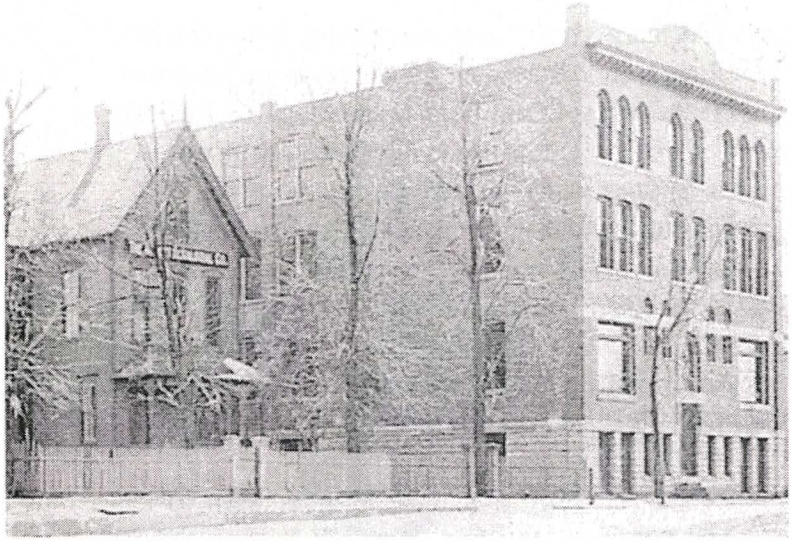
Reformers called for an end to the fraudulent claims made in patent medicine advertisements and for labels listing all ingredients contained in both food and drugs. President Teddy Roosevelt signed the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906. Dr. Abbott joined with others in denouncing the "quacks" and the patent medicine makers in his journals during this turbulent period in American medicine.

Chicago's importance as a manufacturing center, combined with its increasing prominence as a center of medical education in the Midwest, made it a natural place for medical products and drug manufacture. Besides Abbott, several of the more prominent companies that came to prominence in the late 19th and 20th centuries were V. Mueller & Co., G. D. Searle & Co., and Baxter Laboratories.

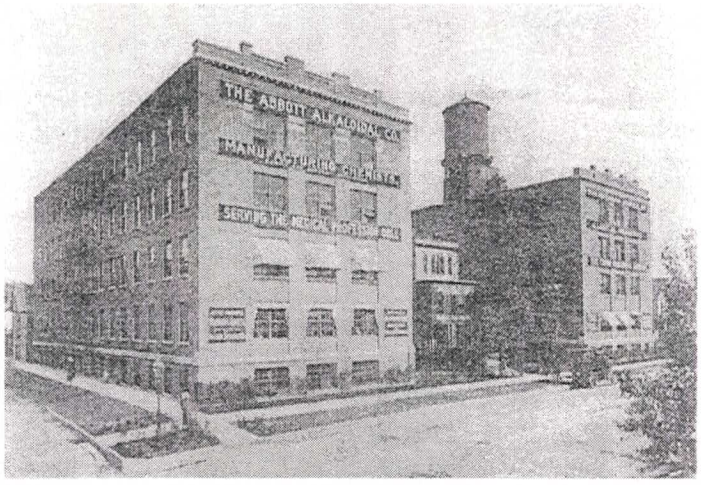
Dr. Abbott's growing drug-making operation was moved in the winter of 1892-93 from his home on Hermitage Avenue to his parent's old frame house at 1416 East Ravenswood Avenue. This house (now demolished) became the manufacturing laboratories, shipping room and general offices for the burgeoning business. According to an Abbott Laboratories centennial publication of 1988:

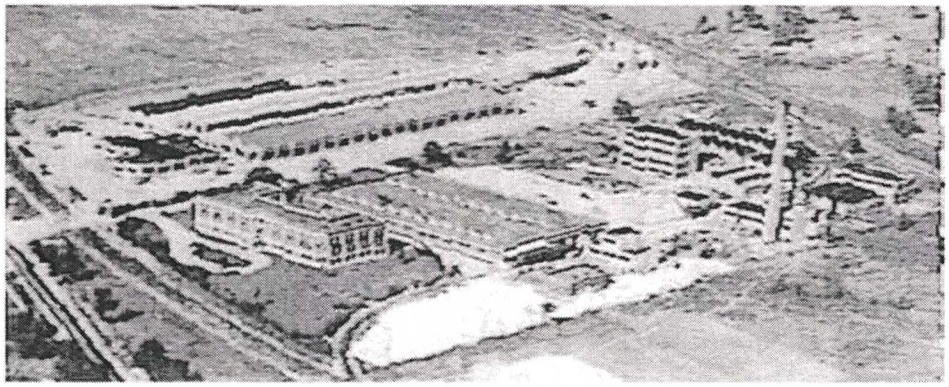
> This house was outgrown time after time, built upon and added to and gerrymandered about as space was repeatedly found inadequate. The basement laboratory had a very low ceiling and a very high density of unpleasant smells and noises. In the center of the room, was a large gas-powered engine and the shafts and pulleys that lead to the coating pans and tablet machines. The air was hazy and heavy with particles of whatever drug was being produced. Nose masks were unknown at the time; it was not unusual for workers to be overcome by heat or fumes.
>
> The finished pills and granules are hauled by a rope elevator in the air shaft to the bottling and shipping room on the floor above. On the third floor were huge barrels of saline solution, ready to be tapped to fill the orders for Abbott's Saline Laxative. All finished stock was kept in a two story shed connected to the rear of the building by an enclosed runway.

The firm was eventually incorporated in 1900 as the Abbott Alkaloidal Company. As sales increased and more space was needed for the company's administrative and publishing needs,



Top: The frame house on the left is the house on Ravenswood Ave. formerly occupied by Dr. Abbott's parents that became the first separate manufacturing building for Abbott in 1892 (previous manufacturing had been in his home or drug store.) The building on the right is the 1901 building for the Clinic Publishing Company, which was destroyed by fire in 1905. Above right: A view of the 1905 fire site. Below right: A view of the Abbott Laboratories complex after the construction of the 1906 building (replacing the one lost to fire) on the right and the 1909 building on the left. The frame house remains between the two newer larger buildings. Of these, only the 1906 building remains; it has been converted to residential use. Bottom: An aerial view of the North Chicago plant to which Abbott Laboratories moved in the early 1920s.





including space for presses, a bindery and offices, Dr. Abbott bought a frame building next to the manufacturing site, and in 1901 built a four-story masonry building for the Clinic Publishing Company. In 1905 this building was lost in a fire, but quickly replaced with a similar building (still standing, now converted to residential use). The following year, a similar building (now demolished) was added to the company's growing complex north of the original house at the southeast corner of Wilson and Ravenswood. These buildings served the company during roughly the next two decades of growth and expansion.

The Abbott Alkaloidal Company was a family enterprise, employing at some point several relatives. Dr. Abbott's sister Lucy filled orders and worked in the office. According to Herman Kogan's *The Long White Line: The Story of Abbott Laboratories,* Dr. Abbott's father Luther, while listed as an 'engineer' in the 1900 census, devoted most of his time to filling bottles or pasting shipping labels. Lucy's husband Edward Hawks Ravenscroft was the architect for the one of the company's buildings on Ravenswood Ave. James W. Ranson, husband of one of Clara Abbott's sisters, was one of the three incorporators of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company according to the incorporation notice published in the *Chicago Tribune* on January 26, 1900. In addition, Dr. Abbott sold the family home on Hermitage Ave. to Ranson in 1902, who in turn, resold it to Mrs. Abbott the same day.

By 1913 the mainstay pharmaceuticals of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company were "four or five laxatives and cold remedies, antacids and a heart drug." Company Vice President Dr. Alfred S. Burdick wrote that the "vogue for alkaloids had already peaked and switched the research emphasis of the company toward synthetic medicines." The corporate name of the company was changed to Abbott Laboratories in 1915.

In the years before World War I, the most innovative drugs were being produced by German chemists, and few American companies could compete with the rigor of German chemical and drug research and development activities. But Abbott Laboratories decided to embark on this new road, and in 1916 introduced *Chlorazine*, a strong antiseptic.

As the United States entered the First World War the next year, Congress passed the "Trading With the Enemy "Act that authorized the Federal Trade Commission to license United States firms to manufacture no-longer available German products, including drug compounds. Abbott Laboratories was well placed to develop American equivalents of popular German-made drugs, including sedatives, cures for gout and syphilis and the German anesthetic *Novocaine,* which became the Abbott-made *Procaine*. This work positioned the company to become the research-driven pharmaceutical firm it is today.

By 1920 sales of Abbott Laboratories products had doubled, and there was an urgent need to expand the company's production facilities. According to company historian Kogan, a single-story building was added to the existing Ravenswood plant, but residential neighbors began to object to the chemical fumes from Abbott's manufacturing buildings. The company began to search for a less populous location for the company, and a 26-acre site was purchased in the Lake County town of North Chicago in 1920.

By this time, however, Dr. Abbott's own health was in precipitous decline, and he died in 1921 at the age of 63. The company he built over 33 years was at his death a $1.45 million dollar-a-year operation. The entire Ravenswood plant was sold to another medical products firm, G. D. Searle and Co., in 1925 for $300,000. Today, the last remaining building from the Abbott Laboratories Ravenswood plant is the one built in 1906 at 4745 North Ravenswood Avenue, which has been converted to residential use.

During the 20th century, Abbott Laboratories has produced many important drugs. It developed the drug *Pentothal* in 1936, was one of the first companies in the United States to manufacture penicillin, and has been a leader in HIV drug therapies with its *Norvir* and *Kaletra* protese inhibitors. Today, Abbott is a broad-based medical products and pharmaceutical company that invents, develops, and distrrbutes products that cover the full spectrum of health care. Based in Abbott Park in Lake County, the company employs over 60,000 people in 130 countries at 100 different facilities and is regularly listed as one of the top companies in the United States in terms of sales.

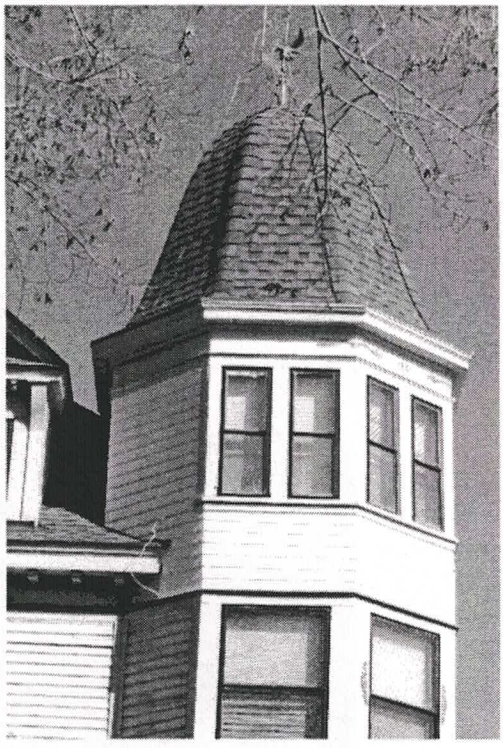
Building Construction and Description

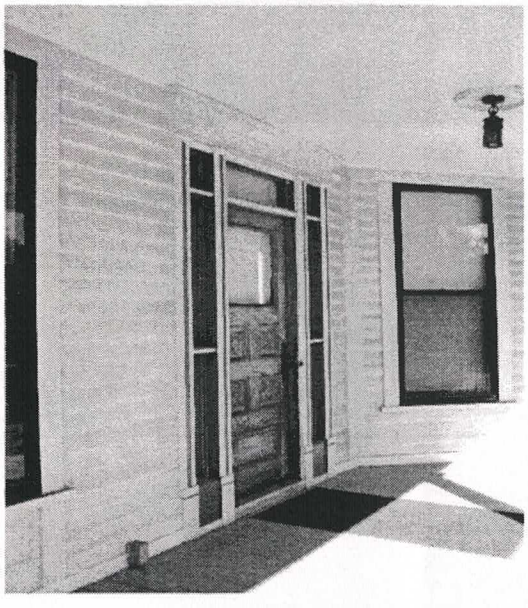
The Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House is a handsome Queen Anne-style house located at on a large lot at the northeast corner of N. Hermitage and W. Wilson Avenues. Early in Ravenswood's history, the community's Fourth of July picnic in 1875 had been held on the lot which Dr. Abbott would eventually buy and on which he would build his home. The original street address for the house, before the City of Chicago renumbered most streets in 1910-11, was 2666 Hermitage Avenue.

The original portion of the house was designed by architects Rudolph Dahlgren and Oscar Lievendahl and built in 1891, while a rear addition dates from 1906. With its wood-frame construrction, horizontal wood clapboards, expansive form, and sweeping wrap-around porch, it is typical of many late 19th-century houses built in Chicago neighborhoods that were once outlying suburbs before annexation to Chicago.

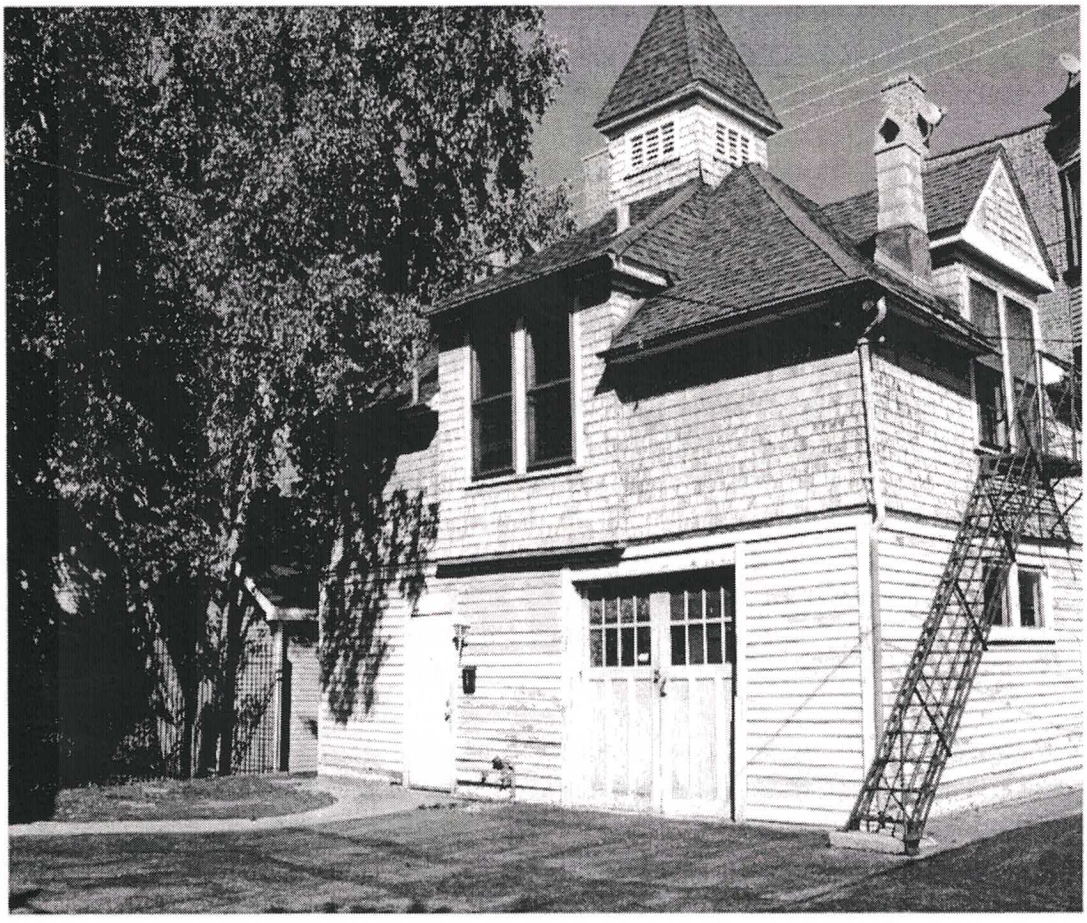
The Queen Anne style was an eclectic style of predominantly domestic architecture built between the late 1860s and 1890s in England and America. Although named after the early 18th-century queen, the Queen Anne style as originally conceived in England in the 1860s and 70s was based more closely on country house and cottage architecture of the earlier Elizabethan and Jacobean periods of the late 16th and 17th centuries. As adapted by late 19th American architects, the Queen Anne style is a visually rich and diverse style. Queen Anne-style buildings can range from elaborate multi-towered mansions and commercial buildings with a plethora of applied ornament, to simply-planned and detailed smaller houses and cottages. What unifies these diverse buildings are a dependence on asymmetrical composition and a wide array of decorative forms, materials and textures. Architectural parts can include towers, turrets, tall chimneys, projecting pavilions, porches, bays and encircling verandahs. Ornament can be in wood, metal, terra cotta, or stone, and range from the simplest wooden spindle work to elaborate terra cotta and pressed-metal details

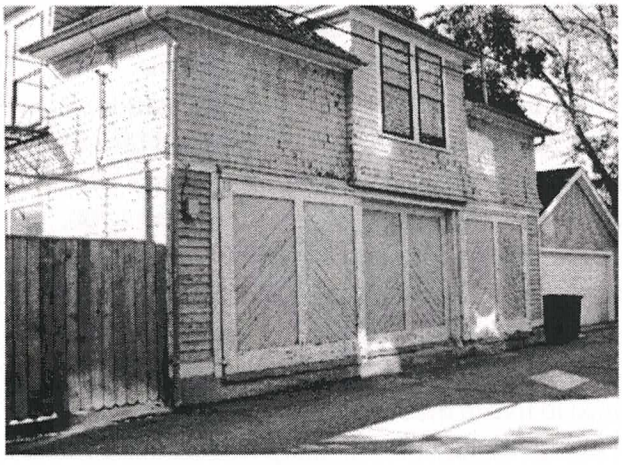
Top: The Abbott House is a large wood-frame house in the Queen Anne architectural style. Bottom left: The house as it looked in the early 20th century with Abbott family members in front. Bottom right: Dr. Abbott and his family in a carriage on Wilson Avenue in front of the house.





The Abbott House has well-crafted wood details.





Views of the stable/coachhouse.

The Abbott House is a wood-frame structure clad in clapboard topped with a hipped roof pierced by dormers. The house's foundation is limestone. The entire first floor of the original front (west) and side (south) portions of the house, facing Hermitage and Wilson, has a wide verandah that wraps around the two principal elevations to a porte-cochere located on the north (side) façade. The verandah retains its wood bead board ceiling, paneled fascia, some vintage light fixtures and wooden floor.

The most distinctive feature of the house is its polygonal corner tower rising two-and-a-half stories. Overlooking the Hermitage-Wilson intersection, the corner tower is topped with a bell-cast roof. Other handsome exterior features are second-floor windows paired with panels of applied ornament, a second-floor stained-glass window, a prominent gable facing Hermitage supported by brackets, and a simple bracketed cornice that wraps around three sides of the house. The porte-cochere on the north elevation of the house has a surviving beaded spindle-work frieze.

At the rear of the building along Wilson Avenue, a two-story wood-frame addition in a style compatible with the original house was constructed in 1906 to house the Abbott Alkaloidal Sanitarium, where private patients could rest and recuperate from "sickness or overwork."

The Abbott House retains its original wood-frame stable/coachhouse, the largest remaining in the Ravenswood neighborhood and with unusually good physical integrity. Adjacent to the alley near its intersection with Wilson Avenue, the stable/coachhouse is two stories in height and clad with clapboards on the first floor and shingles above. The stable has a central cupola with a metal weathervane, slightly projecting wall dormers, and intact stable doors.

Little is known about the Abbott House's architects, Rudolph Dahlgren and Oscar Lievendahl. No known buildings are attributed to Dahlgren or Lievendahl in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey. Neither was a member of the Illinois chapter of the American Institute of Architects or the Illinois Society of Architects. The architectural firm of Dahlgren and Lievendahl are listed in city directories for only a brief period around 1891, the date of the Abbott House. Dahlgren alone is listed as an architect through much of the 1890s, but is not listed by 1900. The two are listed, together or separatedly, as the architects for a number of buildings in the *Inland Architect and Record Builder* during the early 1890s, designing buildings for North-Side neighborhoods, especially Ravenswood, Lincoln Park, and Edgewater.

Clara Abbott and her daughter Eleanor continued to live in the Abbott House on Hermitage Avenue after Dr. Abbott's death. After Mrs. Abbott's death in 1924, daughter Eleanor lived in the house with her husband briefly, but sold it in 1927. During the 1930s the house changed hands twice, before it became the Maginot Funeral Home beginning in 1937.

The home was finally returned to single-family ownership when it was rehabilitated in 1975 during the ownership of the Khamis family. A *Chicago Tribune* article written about the renovation of the Abbott Residence in 1980 describes that "40 dumpster loads of plaster have been removed from the house. The family has replaced all the rotted shingles and siding, put in double thermal glass windows, insulated and replaced the heating and air conditioning units."

The Khamis family approached Abbott Laboratories about buying its founder's home, and the company bought the building in May 2004.

The Abbott House and the Ravenswood Neighborhood

Due to its size and locally prominent location on a large corner lot, the Abbott House has long been a well-known house to residents of the Ravenswood neighborhood. As a large wood-frame Queen Anne-style house, the Abbott House is typical of the neighborhood's early building stock as it developed first as a railroad suburb north of Chicago, then as a desirable Chicago neighborhood.

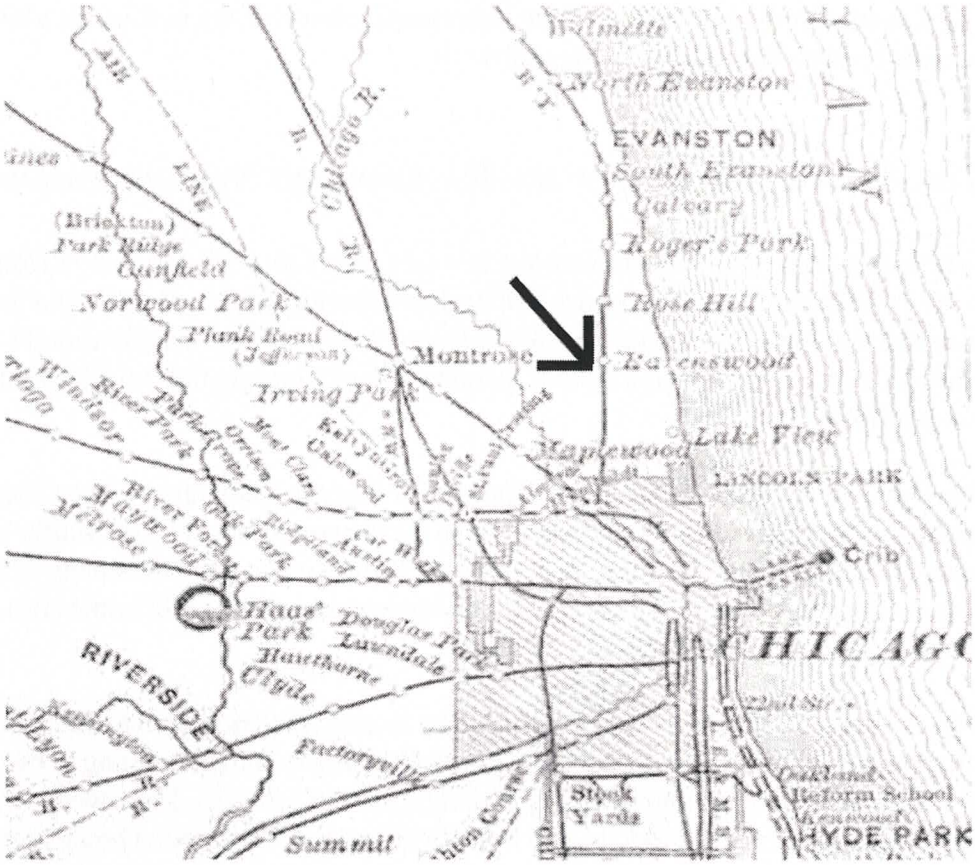
Ravenswood is located about eight miles north of Chicago's downtown. The Chicago and North Western Railway line was built through the then rural area in 1855. Martin Van Allen and his associates bought 194 acres and formed the Ravenswood Land Company in 1868 to create a speculative subdivision. The next year, Ravenswood was platted for home sites. Shade trees, water mains and gas lamps quickly followed.

The character of the community was shaped by its early settlers, which included Swedes and Luxembourgers. Other Swiss and German residents insisted on the building of many schools, churches and other institutions, while prohibiting alcohol and pubs. There was a large influx of new residents after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 who built "wooden homes because they could not afford to comply with the fireproof construction laws enacted in Chicago immediately after the fire. Others chose this suburb outside the city for fear of another conflagration." Early Chicago historian A. T. Andreas mentions Ravenswood in his 1884 *History of Cook County*: "Ravenswood certainly presents as 'rich' an appearance as any of the younger suburbs on the North Western road, its avenues and streets being wide and well graded and lined with costly and tastefully constructed residences."

Journalist and Chicago neighborhood historian John Drury, in a brief essay on Ravenswood published in the 1930s, noted that when Ravenswood was annexed to Chicago in 1889 as part of the larger Township of Lake View, there followed numerous improvements in the community, among them were new schools, street car service on Montrose Avenue, and the building of the Ravenswood branch of the elevated line. Although now a city neighborhood, Ravenswood still had much of the visual charm of a small town, with tree-lined streets and large houses on expansive lots. The Abbott House was characteristic of this charm.

Early on, Ravenswood also developed a commercial district along the Chicago & North Western Railway tracks and centered on East and West Ravenswood Avenues (now known as simply North Ravenswood Avenue, a street split by the raised viaduct of the Metra North commuter rail line). The community's first general store opened there in 1874, and it was along this street that Dr. Abbott and his wife first lived above his People's Drug Store.

This business district began to change during the 1890s as industrial uses and buildings began to develop along the Ravenswood Avenue corridor. Along both sides of the rail road tracks (which



Ravenswood, the Chicago neighborhood where the Abbott House is located, began as a railroad suburb of large-scale suburban-type houses in the late 19th century. Top: A map of Chicago-area raillines, circa 1873; Ravenswood is indicated with an arrow. Bottom: A turn-of-the-century streetscape in Ravenswood.

were not raised until 1910) grew up commercial and light manufacturing concerns, including the Abbott Alkaloidal Company. By the time the Ravenswood elevated line (located a block west of the railroad line and parallel to it) was extended into the area in 1907, old store buildings were first remodeled for factory use, then demolished to make way for modern factory buildings. The history of Abbott Laboratories, starting out in residential buildings, then expanding into purpose-built industrial structures, is typical of the development of the Ravenswood Avenue industrial corridor.

Criteria for Designation

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect 2-120-620 and -630), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a preliminary recommendation of landmark designation for a building, structure, object or district if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated "criteria for designation," as well as possesses a significant degree of its historic design integrity.

The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

Criterion 1: Critical Part of the City's History

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.

- The Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House, as the long-time home of pharmeucetical pioneer Dr. Wallace C. Abbott and his residence during the early growth of Abbott Laboratories as an internationally-important company, exemplifies the importance of Dr. Abbott and the company to the history of Chicago, the State of Illinois and the United States.

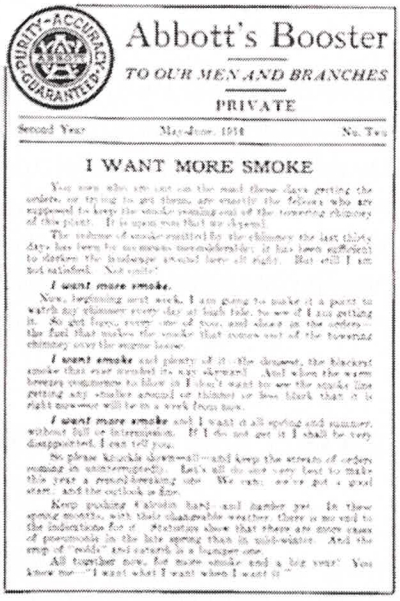
- The Abbott House is the best surviving building in Chicago representing the history of Abbott Laboratories, which was founded and operated for many years in the Ravenswood neighborhood of Chicago and remains a national leader in the pharmaceutical industry.

- The Abbott House exemplifies an important aspect of the economic history of the Ravenswood neighborhood due to its historic association with both Dr. Abbott and Abbott Laboratories.

Criterion 3: Significant Person

Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.

- Dr. Wallace C. Abbott, the builder and long-time owner of the Dr. Wallace C. Abbott



Abbott's Booster

TO OUR MEN AND BRANCHES

PRIVATE

Second Year — May-June, 1914 — No. Two

I WANT MORE SMOKE

You men who are out on the road these days getting the orders, or trying to get them, are exactly the fellows who are supposed to keep the smoke coming out of the towering chimney of this plant. It is upon you that we depend.

The volume of smoke emitted by the chimney the last thirty days has been by no means inconsiderable; it has been sufficient to darken the landscape around here all right. But still I am not satisfied. Not quite!

I want more smoke.

Now, beginning next week, I am going to make it a point to watch my chimney every day at high tide. So see if I am getting it. So get busy, every one of you, and shove in the orders—the fuel that makes the smoke that comes out of the towering chimney over the engine house.

I want smoke and plenty of it—the densest, the blackest smoke that ever strolled its way skyward. And when the warm breezes commence to blow in July I want to see the smoke line getting any smaller around or thinner or less black that it is right now—we will be in a rank from now.

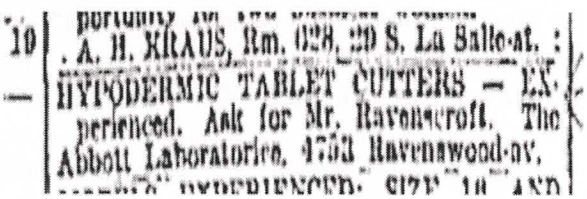
I want more smoke and I want it all spring and summer, without lull or intermission. If I do not get it I shall be very disappointed, I can tell you.

So please knuckle down—all—and keep the streets of orders coming in uninterruptedly. Let's all do our very best to make this year a record-breaking one. We can; we've got a good start, and the outlook is fine.

Keep pushing Calcrin hard and harder yet. In these spring months, with their changeable weather, there is no end to the indications for it. Statistics show that there are more cases of pneumonia in the late spring than in mid-winter. And the crop of colds and catarrh is a bumper one.

All together now, for more smoke and a big year! You know me—"I want what I want when I want it."

Top left: *Chlorazene* was one of the first synthetic medicines to be marketed by Abbott Laboratories. Top right: *Abbott's Booster* was sent to the company's sales force to provide advice and new product information. Middle: A photograph of Abbott employees. Right: Dr. Abbott (far right standing) with other company officials in 1913, including E. H. Ravenscroft (second from left standing) and Dr. Burdick (bottom left). Bottom right: A want ad for "hypedermic table cutters" for Abbott, placed in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* in 1918.



'19 — portunity and ... A. H. KRAUS, Rm. 628, 29 S. La Salle-st. : HYPODERMIC TABLET CUTTERS — Experienced. Ask for Mr. Ravenscroft. The Abbott Laboratories, 4753 Ravenswood-av. ... EXPERIENCED; SIZE "10" AND

House, was a significant contributor to the economic history of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States through his founding of Abbott Laboratories, one of the country's largest and most important pharmeucetical and medical supply companies. It was while living in the Abbott House that Abbott expanded his early small-scale experiments with scientific drug manufacture into larger-scale manufacture and sale, and placed his early advertisements for his pioneering drug remedies.

- The Abbott House, with its long and close association with Dr. Wallace C. Abbott, remains the best surviving building in Chicago that exemplifies his importance to the economic history of Chicago. Dr. Abbott built the Abbott House and lived in it from 1891 until his death in 1921.

Integrity Criteria

The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express its historic community, architectural or aesthetic interest or value.

The exteriors of the Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House and its associated stable/coachhouse remain largely intact. The house retains its historic location and overall form. Important visual features of its exterior, including its wood clapboarding, wrap-around porch, porte-cochere, and corner turret, remain. The Abbott House also retains its cornice, gable decoration, and dormers.

Historic photographs of the house show that there have been some changes to the building's doors, windows, porch, and porte-cochere. Original exterior doors have been replaced with period-appropriate wood-panel doors. Some original wooden windows appear to have been replaced with smaller metal sash and infill panels. Original Classical-style porch and porte-cochere columns supported on plinths have been replaced with period-appropriate Classical-style Doric wood columns. Original porch railings have been removed. A second-floor stained-glass window above the Hermitage Avenue entrance, although handsome, is not original to the building based on historic photographs.

The house received a large rear addition in 1906 built by Dr. Abbott and used as a sanitarium. It was designed with similar building materials and in a style compatible with the original house.

The house's stable/coachhouse is remarkably intact, retaining its original site and the vast majority of original exterior features, including stable doors. The most substantial change is the addition of a metal fire escape on the south façade facing Wilson Avenue.

Significant Historical and Architectural Features

Whenever a building, structure, object, or district is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the "significant historical and architectural features" of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the

THE OLD ABBOTT MANSION at 3703 Wilson is being thoroughly repaired and renovated by the Kharmis family, who hope to be moving in it very soon. (Photo by Sandy Bertoia)

The Abbott House has very good physcial integrity. Top: A view of the house in the early 1900s. Middle: A view of the house circa 1980. Bottom: The house as it looks today.

public to understand which elements are considered the most important to preserve the historic and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based on its evaluation of the Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House, the Commission recommends that the significant features be identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the house, and
- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the stable/coachhouse.

Selected Bibliography

Andreas, Alfred T. *History of Cook County from the Earliest Period to the Present Time*, Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1884.

Andreas, Alfred T. *History of Chicago, Vol. 3.* Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1884.

The Abbott Tree. North Chicago IL: Abbott Laboratories, 1959.

"Abbott Mansion is fully restored." *Chicago Tribune*, 2 October 1988.

Baldwin, Susan. "East Ravenswood National Register Historic District Nomination." September 1990.

Becker, Gabriel A. "A Study of the History and Development of Abbott Laboratories." unpublished Masters Thesis. University of Louisville, 1958.

City of Chicago. *New and Old House Numbers in Chicago*. City of Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats, Department of Public Works, 1943.

Chicago Tribune, 5 July 1921.

Chicago Tribune, 3 July 1925.

Chicago Tribune, 26 January 1900.

Chicago City Directory, 1903. Chicago: The City Directory Company, 1903.

Chicago Historic Resources Survey. Commission on Chicago Landmarks..

Dr. Wallace Calvin Abbott Death Notice. *Chicago Tribune,* July 5, 1921.

Don, Jonathan. Interview with author, 1 September, 2005.

Drury, John. "Old Chicago Neighborhoods: Ravenswood" *Landlord's Guide,* July 1948.

Grossman, James R., Ann Durkin Keats and Janice L. Reiff. *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Inland Architect, September 1891 and October 1891.

Kogan, Herman. *The Long White Line, The Story of Abbott Laboratories*. New York: Random House, 1963.

Loughlin, W. A. Letter about the history of Ravenswood from 1902. Lake View- Ravenswood Historical Association Collection, Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, The Chicago Public Library

Leonard, John. *The Book of Chicagoans, A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Living Men of the City of Chicago*. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co., 1905.

Mayer, Harold and Richard C. Wade. *Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1969.

"Old Abbott Place showing new life." *Chicago Tribune,* 4 May 1980. Lake View-Ravenswood Historical Association Collection, Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, The Chicago Public Library.

Pierce, Bessie Louise. *A History of Chicago, Volume III, The Rise of a Modern City, 1871-1893.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957.

Pratt, William D. *The Abbott Almanac: One Hundred Years of Commitment to Quality Health Care.* Elmsford NY: The Benjamin Company, 1987.

Property Sales, *Chicago Tribune*, 21 May 1907 and 17 September 1907.

Research Report about Dr. Wallace C. Abbott House, Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, The Chicago Public Library, nd.

Sawyers, Jane Skinner. *Chicago Portraits.* Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1991.

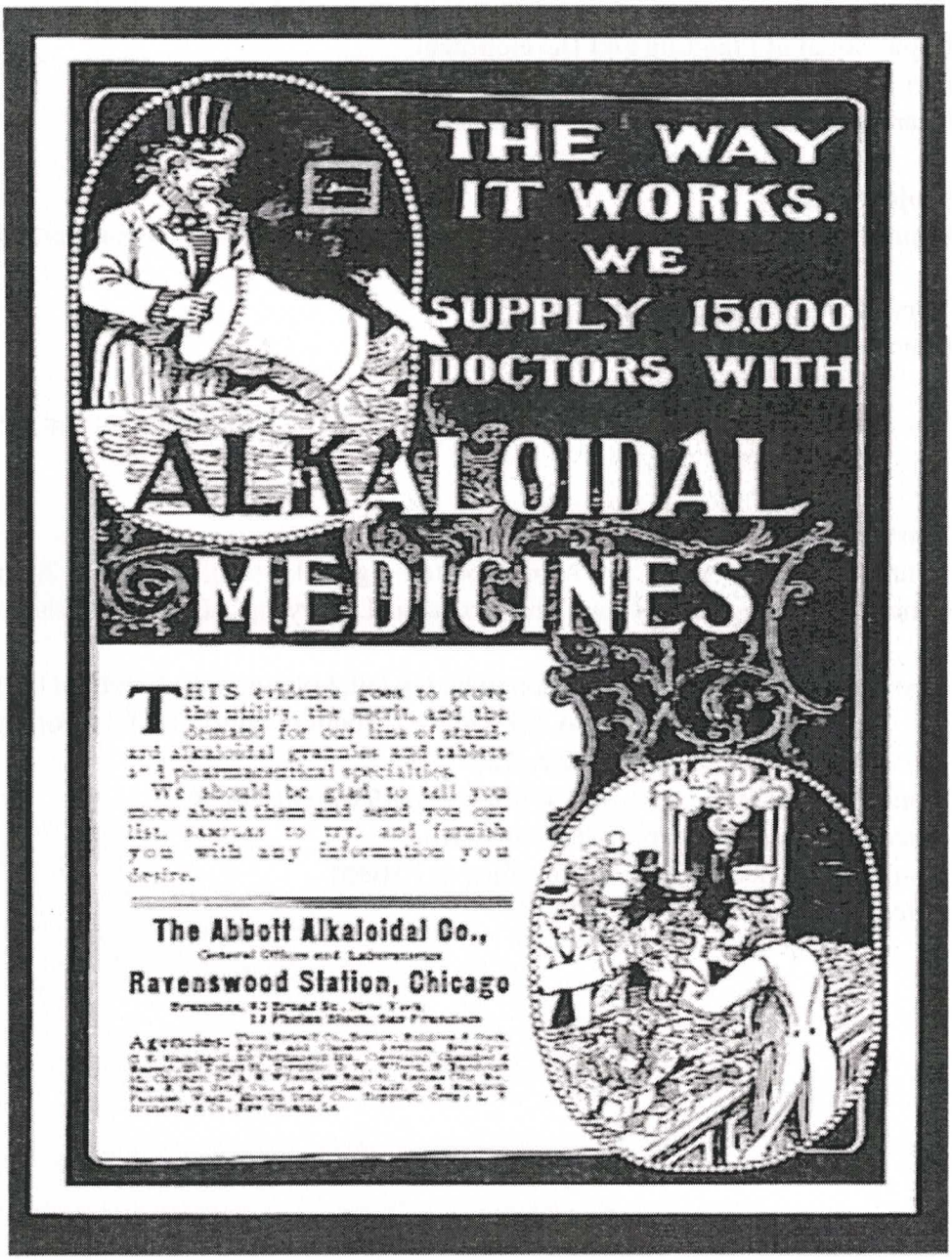
"Serving Humanity in Many Ways: Dr. Wallace C. Abbott, physician, pioneer pharmacologist, whose estate endowed medical research at Northwestern. Northwestern University Centennial 1951." LakeView-Ravenswood Historical Association Collection Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, The Chicago Public Library.

Title Search prepared for Abbott Laboratories for 4605 North Hermitage Avenue, Property Insight LLC, 7 September 2005.

www.abbott.com/corporate/history.cfm

www.abbott.com/science/innovation.cfm

Young, Mrs. Alben., "Family and Social Life in Early Ravenswood, 11 April 1935." Lake View-Ravenswood Historical Association Collection, Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, The Chicago Public Library.


THE WAY IT WORKS.
WE SUPPLY 15,000 DOCTORS WITH
ALKALOIDAL MEDICINES
THIS evidence goes to prove the utility, the merit, and the demand for our line of standard Alkaloidal granules and tablets of a pharmaceutical specialties.
We should be glad to tell you more about them and send you our list, samples to try, and furnish you with any information you desire.
The Abbott Alkaloidal Co.,
Ravenswood Station, Chicago

Above: An advertisement for the Abbott Alkaloidal Company's products.

Opposite: Advertisements and mailings sent out to doctors across the country to promote the company's medicines.

Acknowledgements

CITY OF CHICAGO
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
Lori T. Healey, Commissioner
Brian Goeken, Deputy Commissioner for Landmarks

Project Staff
Donna Ann Harris (consultant, Heritage Consulting, Inc.), research, writing, photography, and layout
Terry Tatum, editing and layout
Brian Goeken, editing

Special thanks to Jonathan Don, Abbott Laboratories, for his assistance in the preparation of this report.

Illustrations
Donna Ann Harris: cover, pp. 3 (top & bottom right), 11 (top), 12, 13, and 20 (bottom).
Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, Chicago Public Library: pp. 3 (bottom left) and 8 (center right).
From the *Abbott Almanac*: pp. 5 (top right, top left, bottom right, & bottom left), 6, 8 (top, center right second photo, & bottom), 11 (bottom right & left), 19 (top right, top left, center & center right), 22 and 23.
From Mayer & Wade, *Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis*: p. 16.
Chicago Daily Tribune: p. 18 (bottom right).
From Abbott Laboratories company files: p. 20 (top).
Chicago Tribune: p. 20 (center).

COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS

David Mosena, Chairman
John W. Baird, Secretary
Lori T. Healey
Phyllis Ellin
Seymour Persky
Ben Weese
Lisa Willis

The Commission is staffed by the
Chicago Department of Planning and Development
33 N. LaSsalle Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60602

312-744-3200; 744-2958 (TTY)
http://www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks

Printed November 2005; Revised and Reprinted January 2006.